QUALITY DOCUMENT 201 FOLDER FOR HARDCOPY

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CLASSIFICATI XII

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

INVELLIGENCE DISSEMINATION

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ORIGINAL APT. G 8158

SUBJECT

Possible Consequences of the Return of Bajj Ania

DATE OF INFO. 17 July 1945

29 July 1945

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ATTACHMENTS

The foll ming is contributed by an american observer with many years' esperience in Palestine.

- 1. There is no question but that the great majority of grabs in Palestine desire the return of Hajj min, for various reasons,
 - a. The Burgeri Usarly (Palestine Arab Party), which still remains the Mest potent and political force, wants him to return because he is their leader.
 - b. The Bashashibi Perty would not dave oppose Rajj amin's returning. at the risk of boing called traitors to the grab cause.
 - c. The masses of Arabs now see in him a person who has not hesitated to oppose the British government openly and who seems to have the respect of that government in spite of his pro-gris activities. to a result his political status has grown.
 - 4. It is probably felt generally by the Araba of Palestine that Haij anin scald and would better protect the interests, political and ecomomic, of the Arab elite of Pelestine, against the encroachmeats of Hashimites of Transjorden and Arab dynastics and interests in other areb lends.
 - e. He epitemizes the struggle of the Felestine Arebs against the Jews in Pelestine, and exystellines their animosities and ambitions.
- 2. There are apparently considerable portions of influential British officialden who desire the Grand Mufti's return to Pelestine for purposes of their own. Among these purposes may be included,
 - a. The wish to keep grab and English opposition to a further expension of Jouish settlement in Pelectine bayed up to an unyielding intres-
 - b. As attempt to use Hajj amin as a tool in British efforts to consolidate a Moslam bloc stretching from Africa to India and amenable to Brelish orientation.
 - c. The desire to remove him from the hands of the French, who might will employ him as a club with which to best the British.
- 3. Source found significance in the incident of several weeks ago when an ammountement was made over the Palestine Broadcasting Service station that the "ex-laifti" had been captured. The next day an official correction was made to the effect that Hajj amin was still the "Mafti of Junualem."

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- 4. Should Hajj gain rotum to Palestine, source is certain that the Arab population in that country and in the Hear Heat generally vill interpret it as meaning that the Eicnist experiment is not only to remain as it is, but that any attempts to liquidate it will not be fromed upon.
- 5. Source continues that the Jew in Palestine will interpret E.jj amin's return in similar fushion; it will add to their forebodings of the future and their feeling of insecurity. The extracist view more the Jews in Palestine will be strengthened, and the explosive at corphere of which/selectinians are not completely conscious, will become intensified.
- 6. There is serious danger, should the lift in returned to Palentine, that the extremists among the Jews may decide to strike. In rybody will them be involved. It will not remain an Areb-Jewish struggle, but will inevitably shape itself as it did in 1996-39 into an Arab-Jewish, Arab-English, Arab-Ereb, and Jewish-English struggle. There will be no self restraint on the part of the Jews as there was in 1936-39. This time defence will consist of offense, notiveted by ansar, grounded in despair.
- 7. The present Jovish ecomonity in Falestine is convinced it cannot survive in its present numbers, and is besicelly prepared to go down fighting rather than, so it feels, inevitably be doomed to down by a precess of gradual attrition.
- 8. And finally, should the Mufti be returned, the Arabe of the Sear East will have convincing evidence that the ensuice of Great British obtain rewards rather than punishment for anti-British actions. The outside world may wonder how it is that an active pro-Aris collaborator can be restored to honor, position, and power by one of the nations for whose defeat he labored.

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